

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00

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O R 071330Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7944

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4632

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.) IN

SUBJ: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO INDIA -- CHANGE IN AGRA SCHE-
DULE

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 4553 (B) NEW DELHI 4554

1. PROGRAM FOR SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO NEW DELH AND AGRA
CONTAINED REFTELS PREDICATED ON USE OF SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT
FOR AGRA PORTION OF TRIP. WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY
INDIAN OFFICIALS THAT RESURFACING OF RUNWAY AT AGRA AIRPORT,
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE COMPLETED BY
THE TIME THE SECRETARY IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT AGRA AND THAT
THEREFORE A 707 AIRCRAFT CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED AT AGRA.

2. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE INDIAN AIR FORCE WILL BE
IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE A 25 SEAT VIP-EQUIPPED HAWKER SIDDELEY-
748 AIRCRAFT FOR THE TRIP TO AGRA. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS
RENTAL OF AN HS-748 OR FOKKER FRIENDSHIP AIRCRAFT FROM INDIAN
AIRLINES. A THIRD POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FLYING TO AGRA ON
COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT IF REQUISITE NUMBER OF SEATS COULD BE
BOOKED. IF INDIAN AIR FORCE IS NOT IN A POSITION OT OFFER
USE OF ITS AIRCRAFT WOULD TREASURY BE PREPARED TO FINANCE
RENTAL COST OF AN AIRCRAFT FROM INDIAN AIRLINES? ALSO WOULD
TREASURY BE INTERESTED IN TRYING TO BOOK SEATS ON COMMERCIAL
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FLIGHT TO AND FROM AGRA? WE SUGGEST THAT WHICHEVER MANNER TRIP

TO AGRA IS EFFECTED, THAT IT BE MADE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17.
PARTY MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER VISITING AGRA BY ROAD, HOWEVER,
TRIP IS LONG (3 1/2 HOURS EACH WAY) AND VERY ARDUOUS. WE STRONGLY
RECOMMEND AGAINST THIS. WE PROPOSE TWO SCENARIOS.

3. SCENARIO "A." HALF DAY TRIP TO AGRA

APRIL 17

0640 HOURS LEAVE ASHOKA HOTEL FOR AIRPORT

0645 SECRETARY SIMON AND FAMILY LEAVE ROOSEVELT HOUSE
FOR AIRPORT.

0700 DEPART NEW DELHI FOR AGRA.

0745 ARRIVE AGRA AIRPORT
SECRETARY TO BE MET BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH IN WHICH AGRA
IS SITUATED.

0755 DEPART AGRA AIRPORT FOR THE CITY OF AGRA VIA AUTO-
MOBILES AND AIR CONDITIONED BUS (SEE REF (B) FOR
DETAILS).

0825 ARRIVE TAJ MAHAL
SECRETARY'S PARTY WILL BE GUIDED AROUND THE TAJ
MAHAL AND AGRA FOR BY A GUIDE FURNISHED BY THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

0915 DEPART TAJ MAHAL FOR AGRA FORT

0920 ARRIVE AT AGRA FORT AND TOUR THE FORT

1005 LEAVE AGRA FORT AND PROCEED TO SPECIALTY SHIPS
(GEMS, BEADED BAGS OR MARBLE INLAID PIECES) -
ABOUT 5-10 MINUTES FROM FORT

1115 DEPART AGRA FOR AGRA AIRPORT

1200 DEPART AGRA AIRPORT FOR NEW DELHI

1245 ARRIVE NEW DELHI AIRPORT

1250 DEPART DELHI AIRPORT FOR ROOSEVELT HOUSE AND
ASHOKA HOTEL

1300 ARRIVE ROOSEVELT HOUSE

1305 ARRIVE ASHOKA HOTEL

4. SCENARIO "B." FULL DAY TRIP TO AGRA

APRIL 17 REPEAT OF SCENARIO "A" UNTIL 1115 HOURS
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1115 DEPART SHOPS FOR CLARK'S SHIRAZ HOTEL

1125 ARRIVE CLARK'S SHIRAZ HOTEL

UNDER THIS OPTION THE GROUP WOULD SPEND THE THREE
HOTTEST HOURS OF THE DAY (IT IS LIKELY TO BE OVER 100
DEGREES AT MID-DAY) RESTING, HAVING LUNCH AND DOING
FURTHER SHOPPING AT THE HOTEL. ROOMS WOULD BE RENTED
FOR THE SIMON FAMILY AND THE BENNETT FAMILY.
IF THIS OPTION IS SELECTED AND TREASURY WISHES TO RESERVE

ADDITIONAL ROOMS FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY
PLEASE ADVISE IN YOUR REPLY.

1430 LEAVE CLARK'S CHIRAZ HOTEL FOR FATEHPUR SIKRI. FYI
FATEHPUR SIKRI WAS A CITY BUILT BY THE MOGHUL
EMPEROR AKBAR BETWEEN 1571 AND 1585 AS HIS CAPITAL.
AKBAR THEN TRANSFERRED HIS CAPITAL ELSEWHERE AND LEFT
BEHIND ONE OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT DESERTED
PALACE COMPLEXES IN THE WORLD. IT IS PRESERVED
LARGELY AS IT WAS IN 1585. END FYI.
1515 ARRIVE FATEHPUR SIKRI AND TOUR FATEHPUR SIKRI.
1645 DEPART FATEHPUR SIKRI FOR AGRA AIRPORT
1745 ARRIVE AGRA AIRPORT
1750 DEPART AGRA AIRPORT FOR NEW DELHI
1835 ARRIVE NEW DELHI AIRPORT
1840 DEPART NEW DELHI AIRPORT FOR ROOSEVELT HOUSE AND
ASHOKA HOTEL
1850 ARRIVE ROOSEVELT HOUSE
1855 ARRIVE ASHOKA HOTEL

5. ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE LET US KNOW (A) WHETHER TREASURY
WOULD BE PREPARED TO RENT AN HS-748 OR FOKKER FRIENDSHIP
FROM INDIAN AIR LINES SHOULD INDIAN AIR FORCE NOT BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE A VIP-EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT. ALTERNATIVELY WOULD
TREASURY BE PREPARED TO PURCHASE COMMERCIAL ROUND TRIP TICKETS
TO AGRA SHOULD SEATS BE AVAILABLE? (B) WHETHER PARTY WOULD
PREFER THE HALF DAY OR FULL DAY VISIT TO AGRA AS SET OUT
IN PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE IF A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT IS USED? IF
COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT IS USED THE TRIP WILL HAVE TO BE FULL
DAY AND TIMINGS WILL HAVE TO BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TO ACCORD
WITH COMMERCIAL SCHEDULE. IF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT OPTION SELECTED
WE WILL HAVE TO COME BACK WITH REVISED ITINERARY.

6. ONCE WE HAVE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PARA 5 ABOVE WE CAN
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RESTRUCTURE THE NEW DELHI PORTION OF THE VISIT ACCORDINGLY.
ALSO PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT TIME THE PARTY WISHES TO LEAVE
NEW DELHI FOR BOMBAY IN VIEW OF THE RESCHEDULING OF THE AGRA
PORTION OF THE TRIP. WE WOULD SUGGEST A LATELY DEPARTURE
FROM DELHI AT AROUND 0930 HOURS, WITH ARRIVAL IN BOMBAY
FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE BY OPENING OF
BUSINESS IN NEW DELHI APRIL 8.
SAXBE

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